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dated February, 1633, beginning: "Yo estoy con la maior neçesidad y aprieto q̄ he tenido en mi vida," etc.

Page 518.—Cristóbal de Virués. On August 18, 1608, he sold the privilege for ten years of printing his *Monserate* and his *Obras traxicas y liricas* for 200 ducats. This proves that the edition of 1609 of the latter work is undoubtedly the first edition.

The above will give an idea of the great importance of the data collected by Dr. Pérez Pastor. These volumes are a very mine of information and are absolutely indispensable to the student of Spanish literature.

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### OLD-LORE.

*Orkney and Shetland Old-Lore.* London: Printed for the Viking Club. Nos. 1, 2, 3 (Jan., April, July), 1907.

*Orkney and Shetland Old-Lore* is the title of a new serial publication, issued under the auspices of the Viking Club and Society for Northern Research of London, and directed by A. W. Johnston, F. S. A. Scot., as general editor. The object of this series should commend itself to all students of Scottish antiquity and especially that of the Northern Isles. Although the Norse chroniclers have left a fairly complete history of the Island Earldom during the centuries that precede 1200, and though the transactions of the last 400 years are fully recorded in accessible archives, there remains a period of over three centuries of almost total darkness. And even of the last four hundred years a vast number of facts are still buried in Kirk Sessions and Registers House Records, in private charter chests, and elsewhere. The Viking Club now proposes, through the Orkney and Shetland Old-Lore series, to publish these and to translate and print for the first time information from all available sources regarding the period from 1200 to 1500, whether printed works, manuscripts, archæology, folklore, or what not. The

series will, in addition, be a medium of notes and queries for all interested in these subjects. The importance of the plan for the elucidation of Scottish History is obvious from the fact that it is found to be necessary to compile a separate Diplomatarium for Orkney and Shetland, a necessity arising from the fact that these islands had self-government for seven centuries, down to 1611. The publication will be issued quarterly to subscribers only, of which there are already, we learn, 560, a very large proportion of which so far is furnished by that enlightened but rather impoverished colony, The Shetlands. Each quarterly will contain about forty-eight pages, sixteen of which will appear under the caption "Miscellany," and 32 as "Diplomatarium." It is also planned to issue extra works from time to time. Under the Miscellany will be published facts relative to northern genealogy, folk-lore words and phrases, saga references to the British West, the archæology and early industries of northern Scotland and the Isles; further also photographs of antiquities, reports on old manuscripts and papers, and book reviews. Under this head the three numbers, so far issued (January, April, and July, 1907), contain, among other things, a list of "Orkney and Shetland Societies"; "Two Jacobean Sonnets, written in Orkney," by William Fowler, poet at the court of King James VI; an article on "The Odal Families of Orkney," by J. Storer Clouston, and one by R. Stuart Bruce on "Old Time Shetlandic Wrecks." Of particular interest in this last article is the account of the wrecking of *Gran Griffin*, a remnant of the *Invincible Armada*, in August, 1588, and of the experiences of the admiral Don Juan and his crew during the enforced stay of seven weeks on the Isle of Faire. Among relics of *Gran Griffin* are mentioned a gun, thirty inches long, now in Orkney, and some chairs taken from the admiral's cabin, and a silver flagon and drinking cup which are preserved in Shetland. There is further, from the pen of Jon Stefansson, a brief but appreciative account of the life of Bjarne Kolbeinsson, the Skald, Bishop of Orkney, 1188–1223, whom the author regards as "the greatest man that Orkney has yet produced"; J. J. Smith Leask contributes an account in Orkney English of "An Orcadian Battle, a Hundred Years Ago," and W.

G. Collingwood, translator of the *Life and Death of Cormac the Skald*, offers in numbers two and three a rendering of a "Legend of Shetland from the *Fljotsdaela Saga*." In addition there are a number of book reviews and much interesting matter under the "Notes" department. A writer here contributes a note on gender in the Orkney dialect; he cites the fact that, as late as fifty years ago, few Orcadians in ordinary conversation used the neuter gender, everything being masculine or feminine. This would seem to be a special development in the language of the Orkneys, for such was not the practice in Iceland, nor is it to-day in dialect speech in Western Norway, whence the colonists of Orkney came. It may, however, be said that the prevalence of the feminine pronoun is a characteristic of English folk-speech. Further investigation would probably show that it is the feminine pronoun that predominates also in Orkney English. Relative to the use of the masculine pronoun in referring to the weather I may, however, say that the use of the masculine pronoun here is to-day characteristic of most of the dialects of Norway, as (translating the original phrases) "he's cold to-day" for "it is cold to-day," or "he's snowing" for "it is snowing." The rule is therefore that natural phenomena are thought of as masculine and when referred to by substitutory pronouns, the masculine is always used. Part 2 of the Old-Lore series, which will contain the *Diplomatarium* or "Orkney and Shetland Records," begins in number I with extracts, translation, and notes from Adam of Bremen, referring to the earliest Bishops of Orkney, and extracts from Annals and Ecclesiastical Documents relative to the Isles, while in numbers 2-3 this part is devoted to "Shetland Sasines" for the years 1623 to 1625. In succeeding issues are to be printed Orkney Sasines and a number of Scotch, Latin, and Norse documents, collected last year in Scotland by Professor A. Taranger of Christiania on behalf of the Norwegian Government for a forthcoming volume of *Diplomatarium Norwegicum*. Copies of these documents have been given the Viking Club in advance of publication; the text is to be edited by Professor Taranger and the translation of the Latin and Norse papers will be made by Dr. J. M. Stefansson. There will also from time to time

be printed extracts and translations of Scottish, English, Welsh, Irish, and Manx records, as well as translations from Norwegian, Danish, and Icelandic archives. A special committee of the Viking Club with Mr. J. W. Cursiter, F. S. A. Scot., as chairman, is at present engaged in making a collection of place-names in Orkney, which will be edited on the side of their etymology by Dr. J. Jacobsen of Copenhagen, whose work on *Shetland Place Names* is also to be re-issued. It is planned finally to form a fund of £2,000 to be invested and the annual interest used in making special researches into the dialects and folk-lore of Orkney, Shetland, and the North of Scotland. This very great work which has been so creditably inaugurated deserves the support of all lovers of British history and "Old-Lore." That it will be conducted on a high plan of scholarship the name of the Viking Club and Society for Northern Research alone is a sufficient guarantee.

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## DE MAUPASSANT.

ALBERT LUMBROSO: *Souvenirs sur Maupassant . . . avec des lettres inédites . . . Portraits, autographes, instantanées*. (Rome, Bocca frères, éditeurs, 1905, 705 pp.)

LOUIS THOMAS: *La maladie et la mort de Maupassant*. (Brochure in 12. Bruges, 1906, 101 pp.)

EDOUARD MAYNIAL: *La Vie et l'œuvre de Guy de Maupassant*. Paris: Société du Mercure de France, 1906, 296 pp.

No writer belonging to the present generation seems to appeal so much to the scholarly as well as to the general public as Maupassant. Whatever is printed about him is almost torn from the hands of the publisher.

The three publications whose titles have been given above have attracted a good deal of attention; they are very different in kind, however.

The bulky volume of the baron Lumbroso, interspersed with a score of interesting pictures,